

**Topsfield Board of Health
Meeting Minutes - March 22, 2007**

Members Present: Deb Colbert, Sheryl Knutsen, Michael Waltermire, Vincent Guerra, MD and Health Agent John Coulon,

Members Absent: William Hunt, Chairman

Visitors: Chuck Johnson, PE, Alan Berry, Brad Latham, Richard Gant

In the absence of the Chairman, William Hunt, Sheryl Knutsen called the meeting to order at 7:36 PM.

CORRESPONDENCE

Thank you note from Ipswich Wildlife Sanctuary re: Fee Waiver approval.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- o Welcome to Vincent Guerra, MD as a new member of the BOH, replacing Smith.
- o Welcome to Patty Dumont, Office Assistant for the Health Agent, who will be initially paid for through an Emergency Preparedness grant (through end of June, 2007) so it is at no cost to Town.
- o Discussion about Lorraine Hill who is currently doing a lot of filing for the BOH office and is paid for through 'Operation Able' which allows her to work 15 hrs/week for \$7.50/hour.

APPOINTMENTS

Page Farm, 12 Boston Street – Pursuant to letter dated March 12, 2007, Alan J. Berry of the C.P. Berry Construction Co., Inc. presented his plans for 12 Boston Street or the proposed Page Farm development which he currently has under agreement. The proposed details of the property are as follows:

- o 68 acres
- o 52 units
- o Elderly housing (over 55) – similar to Great Hill and identical to Caldwell Farm
- o 300 ft. buffer from Route 1
- o 100 ft. buffer around edges
- o A lot of open space
- o Looking to get waiver for design flows from the BOH
- o Averaging 100 gallons/day per unit – asking to go with 150 gal/day/unit
- o Waterloo biofilter treatment system (sponge technology – developed in Canada. With this system, concentration is knocked down approx. 90-95%
- o Waterloo system approved in MA since 1996
- o They need to do Perc Tests
- o Need variance to get Perc Tests going
- o Per John Coulon, health agent, "what do you wish to get from the BOH tonight?" Berry, "Is a variance possible?" Coulon responded "Not until Town Meeting grants the Elder Housing Development (HED) overlay.

- 2 different designs – 3,000 sq. Ft. and 3,400 sq. Ft.
- Limit of 3 people per unit per zoning laws
- Have historical data via Caldwell that load is less than Title 5 (100 gal/day)
- Per Deb Colbert... History says we don't bend any rules for new construction. She feels BOH needs to look at what was done at Great Hill for comparisons.
- Elderly Housing: Title 5 definition – 150/gal/day per unit. Topsfield's bylaw does not distinguish for the elderly. Restrict occupancy to no more than 3 people/unit.
- Section 18 of supplemental bylaw for Topsfield is 200 sq. Ft. per bedroom.
- 40B Housing is not a good alternative – they disregard bylaws.
- Brad Latham, lawyer for Alan Berry, suggested that he could draw up list of conditions they'd meet to give the BOH a comfort level.
- Mar/April – months where deep observation holes can only be done.
- Berry will put together a comparison between their project and Great Hill (early 90's).
- Berry requests to be on next month's agenda.
- Need to do 2-3 days of soil testing and BOH suggests doing it before next BOH mtg.

HEALTH AGENT REPORT

- Lantern Hill Catering: Martha Sanders moved her catering site from Beverly to the Topsfield Congregational Church. John can approve before the zoning approves
- 2007 Topsfield Fair Event Schedule – passed out to BOH members. How many have food at them?? Discussion about animals/food borne illness – what happens? John & Sheryl explain.
- Mosquito Forum:
 - John talked about upcoming Mosquito Forum entitled, 'Mosquito Control in your backyard & your community'.
 - He explained what would happen if Topsfield tested positive.
 - What it means to join the Mosquito Control division, integrated pest management
 - John gave BOH potential dates and it was decided to hold the forum the week before April School vacation. John will call Gould Barn and get availability.
 - Town Meeting is May 1st.
 - Need to create flyers and get them to schools/newspapers
 - Panel experts may include Walter Montgomery, Sheryl and/or Vince for medical perspective, Health Agent from Boxford (had a case before and could talk about how protocols were enacted). There was talk about inviting Kim King who lost a child to Triple E but BOH thought it was too scary in light of recent loss of a teen in Topsfield from a ski accident.
 - Sheryl suggested getting maps showing # of cases.
 - We should personally invite FinCom to Forum!!

- BOH worked with Dick Gant who was in attendance to review the verbiage for the Town Mtg warrant & they made minor edits.
- A motion was made to have Vince Guerra, member of the BOH to work with Dick Gant to tweak the wording of the Warrant Article.
- Dick Gant suggested that the Town create and publicize protocols on what to do if Triple E and West Nile Virus is found before June 1st.
- If it doesn't get passed at Town Mtg, BOH ramps up education!
- Re: Page Farm - Dick Gant suggested to the BOH, in relation to the Berry Page Farm initiative, that he feels Berry may misunderstand that he needs this to go to Town Mtg to get this approved and it will NOT happen this year because it is too late for May.
- John received a letter from Mary Grant, State Rep, inviting him to go to a meeting of local public health officials and state reps at Beverly Public Health Office next month. He plans on going.
- Is scheduled to go to an all-day seminar in Maine for Presby Systems.

NEW BUSINESS

- Request for Permit Fee Exemption:
 - Topsfield Historical Society's Gould Barn
 - Deb Colbert made a motion to approve this for Gould Barn
 - Congregational Church of Topsfield
 - Deb also made a motion to grant waiver for Congregational Church. Make note that the BOH will revisit if activity at church increases.
- BOH Contacts list was reviewed and minor edits were made to keep it current.
- Environmental Health Support Letter – Sheryl Knutsen spoke about this. Two years ago, Romney cut DEP 27% - vote as a Board to support this or sign it individually. Made a motion to sign as a Board. Acting chair Knutsen will take care of this.

FINANCIALS

- Bills were approved to be paid, except the Membership dues because further research has to be done to ensure it is the organization that they think it is.

Meeting concluded at approximately 11:10pm.

Approved as written at the January 24, 2008 Board of Health Meeting.